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RESPONSE TO ADVISORY ACTION

January 29, 2004

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box-1450

Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Petition to patent examiner Ruth A. Davis

Dg Not Enter
Pertaining to Advisory Action, date mailed 01/13/2004, regarding patent application serial number 09/888,741, filed by Gene E. Lightner 06/25/2001, response to Advisory Action is enclosed within.

Attached to the office communication mailed 01/13/2003 is a stapled summary of a pilot project relating to mailing foreign and U.S. patents. Relationship of this pilot project to the current case is unnecessary and unsolicited.

RAO 3/3/04
Acknowledgment that the period for response expires five months from the date of final rejection is noted.

Continuation of 5, prior art, supplied by the examiner, relates procedures substantially different than independent claim 1 of the present application. It will be established that the prior art is inapplicable to the present application, such as employing a membrane to divide a filtrate containing water soluble carbohydrates and provide enzymes for recycle. Dependent claims, within the present application, depend on said claim 1.

Prior art declaration of Chahal, page 5, lines 6-13 states "Lignin in the biomass of plant origin is bonded physically and chemically to the plant polysaccharides, therefore, limited action is performed by microbial hemicellulases and cellulases due to the metabolic blocks of lignin-carbohydrate bonds. Hence, lignin has to be depolymerized, solublized or removed in order to allow cellulases and hemicellulases to hydrolyse the exposed hemicellulose and cellulose. The description of a biomass is believed to be correct. By using one of a well known pulping process lignin can be removed from wood chips to produce pulp substantially free of lignin. Because separation of cellulose, hemicellulose and lignin is specified, it is accordingly concluded that this prior art is dissimilar than the disclosure within the present application, independent claim 1.